

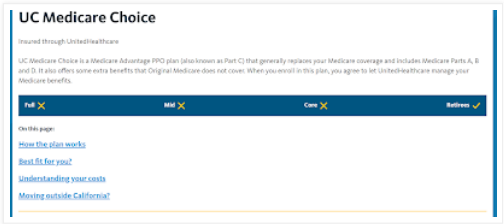
UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

HomeAbout

Sunday, June 15, 2025

Is there any advantage?



UC offers a privatized "Medicare Advantage" plan to retirees through UnitedHealth. Under Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare-eligible participants turn their Medicare benefits over to a private insurance company which is supposed to offer the same care as traditional federal Medicare. Over half of Medicare-eligible participants in the US are now in such privatized plans because they offer cheaper premiums and enticements such as gym memberships. In recent years, however, concerns have been raised that federal Medicare is overpaying the insurance providers and/or that the promised appropriate care is not always provided.

UnitedHealth, in particular, has received critical attention. From [The Guardian](#):

US lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are raising concerns and seeking investigations in the wake of Guardian reporting on whistleblower claims about practices within UnitedHealth Group's nursing home partnership programs. One US senator has announced he is launching an investigation and two US representatives are now calling on the US Department of Justice to expand its reported investigations of the nation's largest healthcare conglomerate. Others said they are troubled by whistleblower allegations reported by the Guardian – including claims that UnitedHealth paid bonuses to nursing homes to help reduce residents' hospital transfers and used improper sales tactics to get nursing home residents to sign up for the company's Medicare Advantage plans...

UnitedHealth vigorously denies... whistleblowers' allegations and says the Guardian's reporting on these issues is "blatantly false and misleading". In response to a question about the two representatives' letter, the company said the Department of Justice "has already declined to pursue the matter" – a reference to the agency's previous decisions not to intervene in two whistleblower lawsuits against UnitedHealth filed under the US False Claims Act. One of those lawsuits was ultimately dropped and the other is pending in federal court in Georgia...

UnitedHealth says its partnerships with nursing homes ensure better care for seniors "through on-site clinical care, personalized treatment plans, and enhanced coordination among caregivers". The company says these arrangements have been highly successful in helping nursing homes prevent unnecessary hospital stays that can lead to serious issues such as delirium, falls, pressure injuries and "sometimes even fatal consequences".

Two whistleblowers who worked for UnitedHealth as nurse practitioners submitted sworn declarations in May alleging that the company had used improper tactics to reduce hospital transfers for ailing nursing home residents. Their declarations were submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Washington state attorney general's office and Congress, according to Whistleblower Aid, the non-profit assisting both nurse practitioners...

Last week, shortly before the Guardian was to publish a second story providing additional detail about [a whistleblower's] pending lawsuit and the other two whistleblowers' declarations, UnitedHealth filed a lawsuit against the Guardian in Delaware state court, claiming the allegations were false and libelous...

Full story at <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/10/unitedhealth-investigation-whistleblower-nursing-homes>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: [health care](#), [UC](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 10

From the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#): Earlier this year, Utah lawmakers passed two bills that cut \$60 million to its higher-education system. That cut, however, came with a caveat — public colleges could earn the money back if they worked out a plan to shift the lost funds away from

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- [CUCFA Opposes AB 715](#)
- [Pause Trellix and Form a Working Group to Explore Cybersecurity Solutions](#)
- [Objection to AB 1217, AB 684, and AB 500 – Protecting UC's Institutional Autonomy](#)
- [Delay the UC cybersecurity mandate](#)
- [Our Letter of Support for SB-829](#)

Remaking the University

- [Liner Note 29: SCOTUS Chaos for Universities - 6/28/2025](#)
- [Liner Note 28. Hyponormalization of University Budgets - 6/17/2025](#)
- [Liner Note 27: Relentless Powers of the Grassroots Experts - 6/9/2025](#)

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- [Chronicle of Higher Education](#)
- [Inside Higher Education](#)
- [Remaking the University](#)
- [Changing Universities](#)
- [California Professor](#)

Search This Blog

UC Faculty Associations

- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)
- [UCSB Faculty Association](#)
- [UCSC Faculty Association](#)
- [UCB Faculty Association](#)
- [Council of UC Faculty Associations](#)

Other Faculty Organizations

- [American Association of University Professors](#)
- [California Faculty Association \(NEA\)](#)
- [UC-AFT](#)

Topics

[politics](#) (1991) [UC](#) (1987) [UC Regents](#) (1822) [health care](#) (1373) [State Budget](#) (1253) [governor](#) (1091) [UC budget crisis](#) (951) [UC-Berkeley](#) (880) [diversity](#) (773) [pension](#) (655) [pensions](#) (589) [tuition](#) (522) [admissions](#) (514) [athletics](#) (497) [CSU](#) (399) [transportation](#) (382) [UC-Davis](#) (373) [online education](#) (337) [UCOP](#) (298) [ucpr](#) (298) [uc retirement](#) (295) [audio](#) (291) [traffic](#) (287) [new hotel-conference center](#) (282) [UC enrollment](#) (279) [enrollment](#)

"operational inefficiencies" and toward high-demand, high-wage majors. The state's eight public colleges have now spelled out precisely how they plan to do that.

After just 10 weeks of deliberating on what to cut, combine, or continue, leaders of Utah public colleges presented their "strategic reallocation" plans to the Utah System of Higher Education on Friday. All eight colleges' plans were approved. Three colleges — the University of Utah, Utah State University, and Weber State University — were approved on the condition that they provide more details to the board later. Utah State's approval is also dependent on review and approval by the institution's next president.

Common strategies across the colleges included eliminating academic programs, cutting course offerings, reducing administrative staff, and consolidating programs.



The University of Utah plans to reallocate about \$19.6 million over three years. Its report did not specify what academic programs it would be cutting, but said the resulting sums would be invested in "engineering, biotechnology, civic engagement, responsible AI, nursing & simulation, and behavioral health." ...

Full story at <https://www.chronicle.com/article/heres-what-utahs-colleges-are-doing-to-win-back-state-funding>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, U of Utah, Utah State U, Weber State U

Saturday, June 14, 2025

It passes



No, not a kidney stone. The state budget for fiscal year 2025-26 was passed by the legislature.* Technically, it had to be passed June 15, but there are rules requiring the budget bill to be available before the deadline. So it was agreed to yesterday.

Blog readers will recall that we reproduced the section for UC in the bill a few days ago to show how detailed it was.**

A scan down the bill in its current form indicates that the allocation for UC appears to be untouched - which means the legislature did not agree to the 3% cut proposed by the governor in the May Revise.

Is this truly the final word? The governor has line-item veto options but he has seldom used them, preferring instead to work out deals with the (Democratic) legislative leaders. By passing a budget, the legislature has met the constitutional deadline and avoided the constitutional penalty - no pay for each day beyond the deadline without a budget. But there still can be discussions with the governor. So things are not quite final.

===

*<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article308566370.html>.

**<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/06/details-details.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:17 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, legislature, politics, State Budget, UC budget crisis

Panel on UC Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR)



A faculty panel was held via Zoom on June 10 to discuss cybersecurity through Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR). Concern has been expressed about the security involved in the use of EDR by Trellix and whether there could be information leaks. The panel discussed

- (252) UC-San Diego (248) community colleges (233) LAO (222) UC-Irvine (182) fund raising (163) UC-San Francisco (153) UC-Santa Barbara (153) UC-Santa Cruz (153) controller (143) faculty center (141) UC-Riverside (137) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (120) UC-Merced (110) faculty pay (108) Master Plan (102) Yudof (89) UCRS retirement (61) Faculty Association at UCLA (59) parking (59) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (34) copyright (30) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (21) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) State Contribution (14) UCOP (14) Regents (13) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UC Irvine (3) UCpolitics (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

Blog Archive

- ▼ 2025 (510)
 - ▼ July (8)
 - Straws in the Wind - Part 27
 - The Trial
 - Tough Credit
 - Hard Times for New College Grads? Is there an AI s...
 - Budget: The Missing Piece - Part 2
 - Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 27
 - Straws in the Wind - Part 26
 - Where's the Money?
 - June (96)
 - May (85)
 - April (81)
 - March (83)
 - February (76)
 - January (81)
- 2024 (832)
- 2023 (828)
- 2022 (719)
- 2021 (710)
- 2020 (914)
- 2019 (671)
- 2018 (595)
- 2017 (666)
- 2016 (715)
- 2015 (765)
- 2014 (704)
- 2013 (776)
- 2012 (839)
- 2011 (738)
- 2010 (431)
- 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

growing cyber threats and referenced UC's Accellion breach. The argument was that EDR via the Trellix system doesn't record and store data but looks for anomalies that might be dangerous and provides alerts for IT staff.

One argument made was that users should compartmentalize their online UC work from their private work and have separate devices - laptops, etc. - for each. Whether this is realistic for the thousands of UC employees and students is unclear. Is UC going to provide faculty, staff, and students with a set of UC-only devices?

In any case, you can hear the discussion at the link below: (audio with still picture)

<https://ia800107.us.archive.org/25/items/becerra-announces-for-governor-4-2-2025/UC%20Endpoint%20Detection%20and%20Response%20%28EDR%29%20Faculty%20Panel%206-10-2025.mp4>.

Description of program:

The panel features Anthony Joseph, Chancellor's Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at UC Berkeley; Stefan Savage, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at UC San Diego; and Giovanni Vigna, Distinguished Professor of Computer Science at UC Santa Barbara. Panelists address concerns about the impact of EDR on scholarly work. The session was hosted by Van Williams, UC Vice President of IT, and moderated by Monte Ratzlaff, UC Systemwide Chief Information Security Officer.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [email fraud](#), [UC](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 9

From *Inside Higher Ed*: ...In April, the Office of Personnel Management posted to the Federal Register a proposed rule "to increase career employee accountability" by allowing agencies to quickly remove from critical positions employees "who engage in misconduct, perform poorly, or undermine the democratic process by intentionally subverting Presidential directives." That could include any employee with "substantive participation and discretionary authority in agency grantmaking," such as those involved in drafting funding opportunity announcements, evaluating grant applications and recommending or selecting grant recipients.

But researchers, former government employees and public policy experts believe the rule would further politicize scientific research in the United States...



Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/science-research-policy/2025/06/05/trump-policy-moves-make-grant-makers-political>.

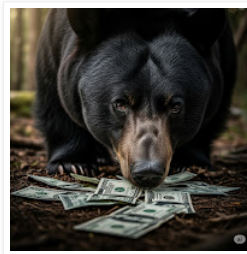
Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [politics](#)

Friday, June 13, 2025

Looking for Cash? - It's There (Now)

The last controller's cash statement is available as the legislature looks to pass a budget by June 15th. It covers the first 11 months of the current fiscal year and continues to show a lot of cash on hand. Compared with what was expected last year when the legislature passed the current budget, the state received an extra \$10.6 billion in revenue. Even compared with the projections made last month for the May Revise, revenues are ahead by \$629 million. Unused borrowable resources stand at over \$91 billion. So the argument between the legislature and governor is focused on projections of not-so-good-times ahead more than the immediate situation.



As we have noted in prior posts, at the moment, the legislature seems to be rejecting any (nominal) budget cut for UC. Whether that remains a firm position should become clear in the next few days.

You can find the controller's report on the current fiscal year through May at:

<https://www.sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/May2025StatementofGeneralFundCashReceiptsandDisbursements.pdf>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:35 AM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [controller](#), [governor](#), [legislature](#), [politics](#), [State Budget](#)

The Money - Part 2

From *CBS News*: Six months ago, Gerry Cardinale stood outside a conference room at the swank Aria Resort and Casino in Las Vegas having already blown away of roomful of attendees during the annual Sports Business Journal Collegiate Athletic Forum.



During his remarks, the RedBird Capital founder and CEO expanded on his private equity firm partnering with LeBron James to bring an NBA expansion team to Las Vegas. As if that wasn't eyebrow-raising enough, he added that private equity was ready to jump into the college sports landscape cleats first. He specifically pointed to college football being tremendously undervalued.

In terms of total revenue compared to the NFL, college football was earning five times less. In terms of media rights revenue, 10 times less. "We should close that gap," Cardinale insisted.

That was a bit shocking to hear from a financial wizard. Or, perhaps it shouldn't have been. Last August, RedBird Capital led an acquisition of soccer giant AC Milan for \$1.3 billion. It already has a stake in the Pittsburgh Penguins and Boston Red Sox. There were reasons the college gap existed. Schools and athletes were constricted by NCAA rules. Athletic departments were business capitalistic enterprises overseen by a non-profit NCAA. Oil and water get along better.

But with the House v. NCAA settlement on Thursday, the infiltration of private financing into college sports became all but official as the NCAA and the Power Five conferences came to the landmark agreement. The \$2.8 billion settlement has opened the door to that influence. The proof was being laid out that day following Cardinale's presentation. He was asked by a New York Times reporter, hypothetically, how much would Michigan football be worth as an investment by his company? "I'd say it's worth at least a billion dollars," Cardinale said...

Full story at <https://www.cbssports.com/college-football/news/house-v-ncaa-settlement-paves-way-for-private-equity-to-infiltrate-college-football-as-landscape-evolves/>.

Also from [CBS News](#): Athletic directors at Penn State and UCLA have denied their schools are involved in private equity funding, even as last week's landmark House v. NCAA settlement opened the door for private equity to enter the college sports universe. Pat Kraft (Penn State) and Martin Jarmond (UCLA) told Yahoo Sports' Ross Dellenger that partnerships with sports consulting firm Elevate do not include private capital. This, in response a report from Sportico that the Big Ten members became debut partners in Elevate's new \$500 million program to fund college athletic departments.

"Elevate is a current ticketing partner of UCLA Athletics, and we are exploring the opportunity to expand the partnership, but private equity funding is not involved," Jarmond told Dellenger. On Monday, Elevate revealed its College Investment Initiative, which is fully funded by Velocity Capital Management and the Texas Permanent School Fund. Velocity, which is owned by David Abrams and Indonesian billionaire Robert Budi Hartono, opened three years ago and had \$257 million in assets as of December 2024, per Sportico. The Texas Permanent School Fund holds more than \$57 billion in assets and benefits grade and high schools in Texas.

"Elevate serves as our partner in ticketing strategy and operations," Kraft told Dellenger. "To clarify, our relationship is strictly limited to these services. We have no affiliation or involvement with any private equity firm or fund." ...

Full story at <https://www.cbssports.com/college-football/news/penn-state-ucla-athletic-directors-deny-involvement-with-private-equity-funding-amid-house-v-ncaa-settlement/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:25 AM](#) No comments:



Labels: [athletics](#), [Penn State U](#), [UCLA](#)

[Newer Posts](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Posts](#)

Subscribe to: [Posts \(Atom\)](#)

Simple theme. Powered by [Blogger](#).